United Nations A/C.2/64/SR.17

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
2 December 2009

Original: English

## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 17th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 21 October 2009, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Mohamed Cherif Diallo (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Guinea)

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09-57026 (E)

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*In the absence of Mr. Park In-kook (Republic of Korea), Mr. Mohamed Cherif Diallo (Guinea), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.*

**Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence** (*continued*) (A/64/65)

**(b) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption** (*continued*) (A/64/99 and A/64/122)

**(c) Science and technology for development** (*continued*) (A/64/168)

1. **Mr. Al-Khater** (Qatar) said the continued unfair distribution of the benefits of globalization and the widening economic gap between developed and developing countries could only kindle feelings of frustration and lead to unexpected forms of international discord.

2. Globalization was the combined result of decisions to reduce trade barriers and of novel information and communication technology. The technological revolution had made knowledge an important factor of production in the industrial countries. For developing countries to compete in the global economy, they must focus on investment in education, research and the dissemination of knowledge.

3. Many countries had managed to take advantage of globalization through modern technology. The technology gap was widening, however, even between developing countries themselves, for their ability to use technology to meet their needs differed. The most important question, especially for poorer and marginalized countries, was how they might use such means to their greatest advantage. They must develop their innovative systems by improving their technological skills and scientific education and encouraging commercial innovation. They should seek to build effective institutions and adopt policies aimed at encouraging investment in development fields, investing in the youth and fostering both a commercial spirit and a spirit of partnership.

4. The public sector could play an important role in the establishment of scientific institutes and infrastructure that paved the way for innovation and invention. Of particular importance were enhanced cooperation, both regional and interregional, and the building of networks for technology transfer by both Governments and the private sector.

5. **Mr. Al-Nasser** (Qatar) said that corruption was a serious threat to the fabric of society, since it undermined fundamental values and rights. It affected all countries to varying degrees and was a major cause for concern in an increasingly globalized world.

6. The emergence of new forms of corruption called for increased international cooperation, particularly the establishment of an international legal framework for the immediate implementation of relevant international instruments. In that regard, his delegation emphasized the importance of the full implementation by all States of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and called on the United Nations to provide the necessary technical and political support to that end.

7. His Government, which supported all international efforts to combat corruption in an effective and sustainable manner, was cooperating closely with the International Criminal Police Organization and was actively implementing anti-corruption legislation in line with international instruments.

8. In addition to national measures to combat corruption, his Government had established national committees to monitor and criminalize money-laundering, particularly with a view to combating terrorism. It also provided national reports on relevant legislation to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism.

9. Qatar would host the third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in November 2009 in order to review the progress achieved to date. His delegation hoped that, rather than mere recommendations, the Conference would result in resolutions that led to concrete action on the ground.

10. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that corruption was a transnational phenomenon, supported by a large international framework incorporating the financial sector, military groups, political groups, communications monopolies and private businesses, and was closely linked to

offences such as arms and drug trafficking and illicit financial transactions. Corruption constituted an ethical problem that was inherent in the principles of capitalism and individualism, according to which the profit-making end justified the means. It was also a factor in the process of transferring capital from the public sector to the private sector.

11. Behind the sphere of politics, business and trade unions, many powerful groups benefited from corruption, perverting the efficiency of the political system and severely hindering countries' attempts to achieve sustainable economic and social development. The legal and regulatory framework must therefore provide for penalties against the public sector as well as the private sector. With that aim in view, the Venezuelan Government had promoted approval of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

12. The United Nations Convention against Corruption recognized that all States were responsible for preventing and eradicating corruption and that cooperation was essential. Strict legal controls must be established in order to regulate the transfer of assets of illicit origin and the repatriation, which threatened countries' security and stability. International institutions and non-governmental organizations had a key role to play in preventing corruption, and must cooperate in areas such as information exchange. It was essential to raise public awareness of corruption and of the legal instruments aimed at preventing it.

13. Science and technology played an undeniable role in development. However, it was important to question the motivation behind their use: whether it was to preserve and reproduce life, or simply to accumulate capital. The debate about the moral implications of scientific and technological research, which questioned whether scientists should be able to determine the course of human life and the future of the world if their work was financed by capital with the sole aim of making profits, could not be ignored.

14. Scientific and technological development had profoundly altered social life and human relationships, as was clearly demonstrated in the workplace. As intellectual work had come to be more common than manual work, increased working hours had led to a rise in productivity. However, depression, stress and physical and spiritual poverty had increased simultaneously with violence, war and fierce competition. A peaceful world characterized by solidarity among people was far out of reach, and the increase in productivity had not improved social and collective well-being.

15. Knowledge must be a shared asset of humanity, and developing countries must be included in the technological revolution. The United Nations system had a key role to play in promoting synergies in order to support national efforts and reduce technological inequalities. Venezuela had been applying an endogenous, sovereign and self-sufficient development model that promoted national production in areas such as industrialization, agriculture, services and infrastructure. Wide sectors of society not traditionally associated with technical research and progress must be enabled to use and benefit from technology, information, communication and expertise. The development of production must therefore respond to the real needs of all peoples of the world in order to improve their quality of life. Venezuela promoted regional integration aimed at creating a society in which knowledge was integrative, development-oriented and human-centred.

16. **Mr. Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil) said that, in response to the current economic and financial crisis, international cooperation should play a major role in helping developing countries to implement national development plans in line with their priorities. In that respect, dialogue between developing countries and the United Nations development system must be strengthened, with greater attention being paid to the outcomes of the 2008 Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the recently held Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development.

17. The United Nations should also support long-term national development plans. To that end, the United Nations system should be further strengthened to ensure greater inclusion of developing countries in global decision-making; its capacity to provide independent, impartial and comprehensive analysis of trends should be enhanced; and its coordination with multilateral financial, trade and development institutions should be improved to support common efforts towards sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

18. His delegation encouraged all States to accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and

welcomed the forthcoming third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, as an opportunity for agreement to be reached on a mechanism for reviewing the implementation of the Convention. There was a need for increased international cooperation, particularly with developing countries, to build capacities in order to ensure the fulfilment of the commitments entered into under the Convention.

19. In the context of science and technology for development, his delegation commended the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. In view of the importance of agriculture, technology and entrepreneurship in countering the negative impact of the current crisis, particularly in developing countries, the Commission's work should be strengthened through South-South cooperation that utilized the relevant expertise and shared experiences of developing countries.

20. Innovative technologies should also be harnessed to narrow the technological divide between developed and developing countries. In that respect, his delegation welcomed the Network of Centres of Excellence project, which had enabled scientists from developing countries to improve their technical skills and to develop professional networks within the scientific community.

*The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.*